



MEDIA RELEASE: USDA Approves Waiver from Maine DOE to Allow Schools Flexibility in Meal Services During School Closures

The Maine Department of Education's Child Nutrition Team today received approval for a waiver from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services. The waiver will allow schools the ability to provide meals offsite to students, if the school or community currently has, or qualifies for, a USDA Summer Food Service Program(SFSP). The Department of Education applied for the waiver as they continue to assist Maine schools in the proactive planning for a disruption to schools in the face of the concerns of COVID-19.

“Our schools are often a critical partner of Maine families to ensure that our children receive nutritious and consistent meals” said Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin. “I am grateful for the advocacy of the Child Nutrition Team and for the response from USDA, allowing our schools to continue with this important work, regardless of any interruption that may occur due to school closings.”

The following information was included in the USDA's notification approving the waiver:

These USDA supported meals are available at no cost to low-income children, and under the waiver granted today are not required to be served in a group setting (called congregate feeding), to ensure kids receive nutritious meals in the event schools are temporarily closed. Approved meal sponsors can then allow meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

In summary, the statewide waiver is to the National School Lunch Act congregate feeding requirement, it is effective immediately, and will continue through June 30, 2020 or upon

expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

Through the [USDA's Summer Food Service Program](#), Maine schools and communities provide children with access to nutritious meals and snacks at approved off-site locations when school is not in session, typically during the summer months. The waiver will extend those services to allow schools to make food available so that children can eat provided meals at home, increasing social distancing and improving general prevention strategies.

The waiver will provide schools with further flexibility in continuity of educational services to students, in the event they need to close their facilities or opt for remote school days.

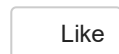
Following approval of the waiver, the Maine DOE is working on further guidance to schools and will make that information available as soon as possible.

###

Share:



Like this:



Be the first to like this.

Posted on March 11, 2020

Previous

VEAZIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AWARDED \$30,000 GRANT FROM WALMART CORPORATION

Next

THOMASTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL EDUCATOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING ABOUT AGRICULTURE AWARD

SUBSCRIBE VIA EMAIL

PRIORITY NOTICE

- [PRIORITY NOTICE: DOE Virtual Professional Learning Now Available Through Mid-June!](#)
May 29, 2020
 - [PRIORITY NOTICE: Next Week's Schedule of DOE Virtual Meetings](#)
May 21, 2020
 - [PRIORITY NOTICE: Weekly Schedule of DOE Virtual Meetings; NEW Q&A for Admin Assistants](#)
May 15, 2020
-

[More Priority Notices](#)

PRESS RELEASES

- [MEDIA RELEASE: Maine DOE Welcomes 5 Student Interns for the Summer](#)
June 18, 2020
 - [MEDIA RELEASE: Mills Administration Secures WiFi & Learning Devices for 100 Percent of Maine Students Reporting a Need In Face of COVID-19's Impacts on Schools](#)
May 15, 2020
 - [MEDIA RELEASE: 2020 County Teachers of the Year Announced in Virtual Ceremony](#)
May 14, 2020
-

[More Press Releases](#)

DISPATCHES

- [Maine DOE Update – June 26, 2020](#)
June 26, 2020
 - [Find an Array of Virtual Support Sessions Crafted Just for Maine Educators and School Staff on the Maine DOE Website](#)
June 26, 2020
 - [Our Remote Learning Journey: Thriving Not Just Surviving](#)
June 26, 2020
-

[More Dispatches](#)

[See Full Professional Development Calendar](#)

FOLLOW US

 [Maine DOE Twitter](#)

 [Maine DOE Facebook](#)

 [Email subscriptions](#)

SHARE SCHOOL SUCCESS



BROWSE BY CATEGORY OR MONTH

Select Category 

BROWSE BY DATE

Select Month 

MAINE DOE NEWS ON TWITTER

Tweets by @mdoenews



ME Dept of Education

@mdoenews

Find an Array of Virtual Support Sessions Crafted Just for Maine Educators and School Staff on the Maine DOE Website mainedoenews.net/2020/06/26/fin... via @mdoenews

Find an Array of Virtual Support Sessions Crafted Just Maine Educators and School Staff on the...
The Maine Department of Education's content specialists along with partnering educational leaders from t...
mainedoenews.net

Jun 26, 2020



ME Dept of Education

@mdoenews

Our Remote Learning Journey: Thriving Not Just Surviving mainedoenews.net/2020/06/26/our...

Our Remote Learning Journey: Thriving Not Just Surviving
Written and submitted by Debra Butterfield and Lori Gingras, MSAD 11. Rie Kittredge, English Department...
mainedoenews.net

Jun 26, 2020

[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Maine Department ...

3,260 likes

Like Page

Share

Be the first of your friends to like this
